

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 6.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,787,225 (“Honjo”), U.S. Patent No. 6,925,042 (“Nakajo”), U.S. Patent No. 6,961,510 (“Proidl”), and U.S. Patent No. 5,649,047 (“Takahashi”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

MPEP § 2143 states that “[t]he key to supporting any rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is the clear articulation of the reason(s) why the claimed invention would have been obvious. The Supreme Court in KSR noted that the analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 should be made explicit.” Further, when combining prior art elements, the Examiner “must articulate the following: (1) a finding that the prior art included each element claimed, although not necessarily in a single prior art reference, with the only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art being the lack of actual combination of the elements in a single prior art reference...” See MPEP § 2143(A).

Referring to the specification as an example, embodiments of the claimed invention generally relate to an apparatus and a method for improved continuity of video reproduction. Embodiments of the claimed invention may allow a user to grasp the content of data during high speed (n-fold) reproduction of MPEG encoded digital video information. (Published Specification, ¶¶[0011]-[0012]). Accordingly, independent claim 1 recites, in part, “a control unit configured to control the expansion unit, during the n-fold speed reproduction of the compressed video and audio data, to alternatively and continuously reproduce a plurality of frames corresponding to the n-fold speed and a plurality of frames corresponding to one of a normal speed and a two-fold speed when the high speed reproduction key is operated.” Independent claim 6 recites similar limitations.

The claimed invention does not merely perform the n-fold speed reproduction and the normal speed reproduction (or two-fold speed reproduction), alternatively. In contrast, the claim limitations require alternatively reproducing frames corresponding to the n-fold speed and frames corresponding to the normal speed (or the two-fold speed) *during the n-fold speed reproduction*. Accordingly, the claim limitations allow a user to understand the contents of video and audio data during a high speed reproduction, as normal speed (or two-fold speed) frames may be displayed during high speed reproduction. Specifically, even during an n-fold speed reproduction, a user may understand the content of the video and audio data because one frame corresponding to the normal speed (or the two-fold speed) is inserted between two frames corresponding to the n-fold speed.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Honjo merely discloses increasing the rotation speed of the optical disk to perform a high-speed reproduction. (Honjo, col. 6, ll. 10-35). Nowhere in the disclosure of Honjo is an alternative reproduction of frames from varying n-fold reproduction

speeds disclosed or even suggested. Accordingly, Honjo fails to teach, or suggest, at least, alternatively reproducing frames corresponding to the n -fold speed and frames corresponding to a normal speed *during the n -fold speed reproduction*, as is required by the claims. There is no suggestion within Honjo that a user may easily understand the content of the data that is being reproduced at the n -fold speed of reproduction.

Nakajo fails to provide at least that which Honko lacks. Nakajo merely describes that a value of correction quantity k is changed when a linear velocity multiplication factor is less than a predetermined value and the that value of the correction quantity k is fixed when the linear velocity multiplication factor is more than a predetermined value in order to enable recording at a high quality level. (Nakajo, col. 2, ll. 55+). Further, Nakajo describes the linear velocity multiplication factor as not less than eight-fold speed. Accordingly, Nakajo fails to discuss, or even suggest, reproduction of frames from during a high-speed reproduction. Instead, Nakajo is merely directed to high quality reproduction.

In addition to the above, the Examiner explicitly acknowledges that Honjo in view of Nakajo fails to disclose alternating between various speeds of reproduction. (Office Action, March 30, 2010, page 5).

Proidl fails to provide that which Honjo and Nakajo lack. Proidl merely discloses a reproducing means that may reproduce normal-play reproduction data (NPD) when a magnetic tape is moved at a normal-play speed (N_v). (Proidl, col. 4, ll. 54+). It is further disclosed that trick-play reproduction data (TPD) is reproduced when the magnetic tape is moved at a first trick-play speed

(VT1), a second trick-play speed (VT2), or a third trick-play speed (VT3). (*Id.*). However, pursuant to Proidl, the reproduction means does not alternatively reproduce NPD and TPD when the magnetic tape is moved at the trick-play speed, thereby inserting normal play speed frames into the trick-play speed frames. (*Id.*). Accordingly, Proidl fails to teach alternatively reproducing frames corresponding to an n-fold speed and frames corresponding to normal speed during the n-fold speed reproduction, as is required by the claims.

Furthermore, Takahashi fails to teach that which Honjo, Nakajo, and Proidl lack. Takahashi merely discusses a problem of conventional picture recording/reproducing apparatus. (Takahashi, col. 2, ll. 5-27). However, when discussing the playback mode, Takahashi merely discloses that in a slow playback mode (1/N speed), M frames of the *valid image data* and (N-1)xM frames of the *invalid data* are periodically output. (Takahashi, col. 3, ll. 55 to col. 4, ll. 47) (emphasis added). Accordingly, Takahashi also fails to disclose at least alternatively reproducing *frames corresponding to an n-fold speed* and *frames corresponding to a normal speed* during the n-fold speed reproduction ($n \geq 3$), as is required by the claims.

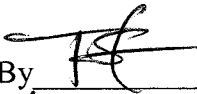
In view of the above, Honjo, Nakajo, Proidl, and Takahashi, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to teach at least alternatively and continuously reproducing a plurality of frames corresponding to an n-fold speed and a plurality of frames corresponding to one or a normal speed and a two-fold speed during n-fold reproduction, as is required by the claims. Accordingly, claims 1-11 are patentable over Honjo, Nakajo, Proidl, and Takahashi. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/121001).

Dated: July 30, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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